

Message Text

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70

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PASS DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DEA)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, CA

SUBJECT: LEDAIN DRUG COMMISSION ISSUES LAST REPORT

1. COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO NON-MEDICAL USE OF DRUGS (LEDAIN COMMISSION) COMPLETED FOUR YEARS OF STUDY INVOLVING EXPENDITURE OF CLOSE TO \$4 MILLION WITH TABLING IN PARLIAMENT ON DECEMBER 14 OF THIRD AND LAST VOLUME OF FINAL REPORT. IT IS MASSIVE TOME OF 1150 PAGES (INCLUDING APPENDICES) CONTAINING ELABORATELY DETAILED DISCUSSION OF VIRTUALLY EVERY ASPECT OF OPIATE NARCOTICS, AMPHETAMINES, LSD, COCAINE, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, BARBITURATES AND TRANQUILIZERS. EARLIER TWO VOLUMES WERE EACH DEVOTED TO SUBJECTS OF TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION AND CANNABIS.

2. CHIEF RECOMMENDATIONS OF LATEST REPORT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) A PROGRAM OF COMPULSORY TREATMENT FOR HEROIN AND OTHER OPIATE ADDICTS. PERSONS PICKED UP BY POLICE AS SUSPECTED ADDICTS COULD BE DETAINED BY COURT ORDER FOR AS LONG AS THREE MONTHS TO GIVE THEM CHANCE TO BE TREATED AND REHABILITATED. ADDICTS WHO REFUSE TO CONTINUE COURSE OF TREATMENT WOULD BE RELEASED AND THEREAFTER CONSIDERED CRIMINALS IF CONVICTED OF OPIATE CRIMES.

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(2) AN EXPERIMENT WITH LEGAL HEROIN MAINTENANCE FOR ADDICTS.

(3) A COMPULSORY TREATMENT FOR ALCOHOLICS IF COMPULSORY HEROIN SCHEME IS EFFECTIVE.

(4) WARNINGS IN ALCOHOL ADVERTISING OF HEALTH DANGERS.

(5) REAFFIRMATION OF EARLIER RECOMMENDATION THAT SIMPLE POSSESSION OF CANNABIS NOT BE AN OFFENSE.

(6) TIGHTER CONTROLS ON MEDICINAL DRUGS THAT ARE SUBJECT TO ABUSE.

(7) SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS FOR AMPHETAMINES.

(8) A DECREASE IN MAXIMUM SENTENCES FOR POSSESSION OF OPIATES AND LSD.

3. IN SECTION OF APPENDIX DEALING WITH OPIATES, REPORT DESCRIBES HISTORY AND PATTERN OF TRAFFICKING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND CONCLUDES ON PAGE 583 THAT U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN LAOTIAN AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE POLITICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS HAS "ALTHOUGH UNINTENTIONAL...FURTHERED RATHER THAN ARRESTED SOUTHEAST ASIA'S DEVELOPMENT AS A MAJOR SOURCE FOR INTERNATIONAL OPIATES MARKET."

4. SAME SECTION ON PAGE 586 MAKES FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL STATEMENT CRITICAL OF U.S. ROLE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA THAT WAS WIDELY REPEATED IN CANADIAN PRESS: "ALTHOUGH THE CIA ITSELF HAS IDENTIFIED 21 OPIUM REFINERIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND IMPLICATED THE EXISTING GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR OPERATION, THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION HAS YET TO REVISE ITS MILITARY AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THESE REGIMES. THE VIETNAM WAR HAS OPENED UP NEW ROUTES, SPAWNED NEW SYNDICATES, PROVIDED THE NECESSARY COURIERS AND INCREASED THE DEMAND FOR OPIATES IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES."

5. PUBLICATION OF THIS LAST VOLUME OF LEDAIN COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT REMOVES GOC'S OFT-INVOKED EXCUSE FOR NOT TAKING NEW INITIATIVES IN SUCH AREAS AS HEROIN ADDICTION, LSD ABUSE AND SOFTENING CANNABIS LAWS. AN ARTICLE IN TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL OF UNCLASSIFIED

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DECEMBER 17 CLAIMS ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL SOURCES THAT GOVERNMENT IS WORKING ON NEW DRUGS BILL TO BE CALLED DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT THAT WOULD COVER ALL MOOD MODIFYING DRUGS. ARTICLE ANTICIPATES THAT NEW LEGISLATION WILL BE INTRODUCED IN HOUSE OF COMMONS DURING NEXT SESSION AND WILL REFLECT SOME OF LEDAIN COMMISSION' RECOMMENDATIONS.

6. TWO COPIES OF REPORT ARE BEING FORWARDED TO EUR/CAN.

PLEASE ADVISE IF FURTHER COPIES ARE DESIRED.

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